

demand and because the public wishes me to for their purpose, and not to gratify any of mine."

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"I have been immensely worried and puzzled over the Presidential business. I am really not thinking of at all now, but as to what is right to do. Taft is utterly hopeless. I think he would be beaten if nominated, but in any event it would be a misfortune to have him in the Presidential chair for another term, for he has an entirely unfit President, and he merely

the Republican Party, and therefore discredits of us believe that, with the Democratic Party as it is constituted, the Republican Party offers the only through which to secure really sane, progressive government. . . .

"But I am sure that, from the personal standpoint, it would be rough on me to have me nominated, I am as yet not sure that it would not be damaging from the standpoint. I think a great many men would have a feeling that I was nominated to gratify my own and would pay no heed whatever to the circumstances of the nomination. The New York newspapers, for instance, would probably without a single exception assert that I li[^]d corruptly intrigued for the nomination, and keep up the assertion until they had deceived a good number of people. Very possibly I should be beaten if I ran, and if I not beaten it might well be that I would be elected, under circumstances which would render it impossible to any constructive program—and if ever I hold the Presidency again I shall regard it as a capital misf

I am able to hold it not merely for the sake of
the
office but for the sake of doing a job. In
other words, I
want to see the Presidency handled along the
the
job of digging the Panama Canal has been
handled."

In January, 1912, Frank A. Munsey, then
editor of
Press of New York City, made a public appeal
to Roosevelt to announce that if nominated for the
Presidency he